

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00656 131325Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----006338 131337Z /44

P R 131313Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4730
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00656

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, OGEN, GW, RW, UG, UK
SUBJECT: UGANDA: FATE OF MARK ELIAS

REFS: (A) BONN 261657; (B) KIGALI 1554
(C) STATE 19321; (D) BONN 20766

FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR FROEWIS' REPLY TO THE
DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
THE FATE OF MARK ELIAS:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. IN MAY 1977, MR. ABDULLAH, A RWANDAN EMPLOYEE OF
MR. ELIAS, TELEPHONED THE RWANDAN EMBASSY THAT MR.
ELIAS HAD DISAPPEARED AND FURTHERMORE, THAT HE HAD
LEARNED FROM A MR. HUSSEIN SEBBI (AT THAT TIME A MEMBER
OF THE STATE RESEARCH BUREAU) THAT A WHITE, MALE BODY
WAS FOUND ON MASAKA ROAD, 8 KILOMETERS FROM KAMPALA.

MR. ABDULLAH WAS HIMSELF QUESTIONED BY POLICE
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INVESTIGATORS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF MR. ELIAS. THE
POLICE INSPECTORS SUSPECTED MR. ELIAS OF SPYING AND
OF DIAMOND SMUGGLING.

COUNSELLOR SEBUHWILILI OF THE RWANDAN EMBASSY THEN
QUERIED MEMBERS OF THE RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN KAMPALA
WHO CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY MR. ABDULLAH.

MR. ABDULLAH SUBSEQUENTLY FLED TO KIGALI.

2. THE VOICE OF UGANDA PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT ON MAY 20, 1977:

"WARNING ON SPIES: A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS WARNED COUNTRIES WHICH MAY BE SENDING OR WHO HAVE SPIES IN UGANDA THAT SUCH SPIES ARE HERE AT THEIR OWN RISK. THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF SPIES IN THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT SEND SPIES TO OTHER COUNTRIES. IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING THAT MAY HAPPEN TO ANY OF THESE SPIES. IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT THEM HERE. JUST IN CASE A COUNTRY FAILS TO LOCATE ITS SPY IN UGANDA IT SHOULD NOT BOTHER THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT."

3. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHARING THE ESSENCE OF MY REPORTS CONFIDENTIALLY WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE LATTER WAS REPEATEDLY APPROACHED BY THE WIFE OF MR. ELIAS, LIVING IN LONDON. FROEWIS.

END QUOTE
STOESSEL

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